

A woman who works through the night to feed her household. A woman whose strength and honor were her clothing. A woman whose mouth speaks and wisdom and tongue with kindness. A woman whose children call her blessed and most of all, a woman who fears the Lord. Annabell, as she was affectionately known, was such a woman. A loving, committed and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great-great grandmother, mother-in-law, godmother, aunt and friend. Indeed, she was a virtuous woman.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to the life and legacy of my constituent, Mrs. Anna Roberts.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S NATIONAL TITLE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the University of Miami's championship victory in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) College World Series. It is both an honor and a joy for me to recognize the Hurricanes on their triumphant season.

On Saturday, June 19th, the Miami Hurricanes defeated the Florida State Seminoles by a score of 6 to 5 to win this year's NCAA baseball championship. This is the third championship for Miami and it is a fitting end to a stellar, yet challenging, season in which the 'Canes won 50 games, while losing only 13.

The road to the championship was filled with adversity since the season's beginning as the Hurricanes lost three top hitters to the pros, and six more players to injuries. However, the team overcame these challenges with outstanding performances on Saturday by players such as Kevin Brown and Mike Neu, whose efforts were symbolic of their team's outstanding talent and hard work throughout the season.

Coach Jim Morris deserves a great deal of credit for winning his first national baseball title in six years with the University of Miami. Since 1994, he has led the Hurricanes to very successful seasons, each concluding with heart-wrenching losses in the College World Series. This past Saturday, Coach Morris's perseverance and dedication finally paid off. I wish to congratulate Coach Morris and the University of Miami baseball team for a well deserved victory, a victory of which the entire university and the south Florida community can be very proud.

POLISH WOMEN'S CLUB OF THREE RIVERS, MASSACHUSETTS CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, June 27th, 1999, the Polish Women's

Club of Three Rivers, Massachusetts will celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Having the distinct pleasure of representing this community in the Congress, I take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the club's members on their 75 years of dedication and good work to their community. This anniversary is indeed a milestone; an achievement in which they should be proud.

I also take this opportunity to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today the complete history of the Polish Women's Club of Three Rivers. May the many years of service and good work of the club forever be remembered as a part of our nation's history.

POLISH WOMEN'S CLUB OF THREE RIVERS, THREE RIVERS, MASSACHUSETTS, 1924-1999—HISTORY

On February 24, 1924, the Polish American Women's Citizens Political Club of Three Rivers and Thorndike was formed. There were 59 charter members. On March 30, 1924, Miss Anna Rusek became the first president.

The purpose was:

1. To encourage women to become citizens and assist them in procuring citizenship papers by teaching them English and related subjects.

2. Take active part in politics and get proper recognition and positions on local, state, and federal level.

3. Support businesses owned by people of Polish extraction.

In 1933 we joined the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women's Clubs, Inc. This affiliation enables us to further foster our Polish culture and we have gained much through the years in this association. We have hosted their conventions in 1952, 1969, 1979, 1984, and 1989. Our activities within the framework of the Federation includes District V which comprises the Western Massachusetts area. We are very actively and continuously involved in holding various offices and directing the activities of this unit.

On October 20, 1958, our name changed to the Polish Women's Club of Three Rivers. Our constitution was revised to foster our ethnic culture, encourage higher education, and exchange cultural ideals. This remains our purpose to this day.

On May 8, 1949, we observed our twenty-fifth anniversary; on April 27, 1974, our fiftieth; on October 27, 1979, our fifty-fifth; on October 27, 1984, our sixtieth; on October 28, 1989, our sixty-fifth; on October 22, 1994, our 70th, and on June 27, 1999, our 75th.

We also have held or still hold memberships in the United Polish American Organizations Council—Township of Palmer, Polish American Congress, and The Kosciuszko Foundation.

Monetary contributions have been made to numerous organizations, such as The Blind Children of Poland; Child's Wish Come True, Inc.; Kosciuszko Foundation Renovation Fund, Palmer Ambulance Service Inc.; Palmer Library; Polish American Congress for the Polish Room, Museum of Immigration at Ellis Island; Pope John Paul II's Guest House in Rome and Endowment Fund; Pope John Paul II Cultural Center—Washington, D.C.; Saints Peter and Paul Church; Support of Solidarity in Poland; United Polish American Organizations Council—Township of Palmer; and Literacy Volunteers of America of Quaboag Valley.

Observance of our 50th, 60th, 65th, and 70th anniversaries and the history of our club have been entered into the Congressional Record of the United States of America.

We contribute our time, talents, and money to various worthwhile projects and

causes in a very positive manner. Again, these are too numerous to mention.

We have been able to develop and promote our Polish culture, receive scholarship grants for our daughters and members; have or children of Western Massachusetts take part in the statewide essay contests sponsored by the Federation; serve as executive officers and committee members in the various organizations we are affiliated with.

We have been and are actively participating in religious, civic, political and community affairs.

A scroll signed by members of our club was included on November 13, 1976, in the time capsule buried at that time as part of the commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Town of Palmer. The capsule will be re-opened in the year 2076.

Our membership today is 127-73 are 65 or over and 54 are under 65. Dues are \$2.50 a year. Members 65 years and over are exempt from payment. We follow the calendar year for our meetings, January through December, with no meetings June, July, and August. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at the St. Stanislaus Polish Home, Three Rivers.

In order to keep our treasury healthy we hold one big raffle a year during the winter. Our members are to be commended for their enthusiastic response for contributions of prizes and selling of our raffle tickets.

Past presidents: *Anna Rusek, *Mary Jajuga, *Sophie Zerdecki, *Nellie Motyka, *Anna Kulig, *Julie Midura, *Stephanie Kolbusz, Genevieve Janosz, and Edna Pytko. (* deceased)

Officers—Year 1999: Helen Grzywna, President; Debra A. Geoffron, Vice President; Betty Brozek, Treasurer; Sophie J. Valtelhas, Recording Secretary and Publicity; Phyllis Misiaszek, Financial Secretary; and Alice Pilch and Sophie Walulak, Auditors.

Helen Grzywna has been president for twenty-eight years and the club has progressed under her leadership in many projects and causes too numerous to mention.

The spirit that brought together in 1924 those fifty-nine courageous women is still carried on today. Teamwork is an important part of our organization and each member's contribution is highly valued. We are proud of our beginnings and of what we have accomplished since 1924 and as we commemorate this 75th anniversary we will continue our tradition of exemplary dedication and service to our religious, civic, political, and community establishments.

75TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

Our 75th anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, June 27, 1999, starting with a Thanksgiving Mass at 11:00 a.m. in the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Three Rivers. Our pastor, Reverend Stefan J. Niemczyk, will be celebrant, assisted by Reverend Mr. Edward Tenczar, concelebrant. Immediately after Mass, we will gather at the church's Parish Center for a 1:00 p.m. dinner catered by Tony and Penny. President Helen Grzywna will welcome everyone and then turn the program over to Toastmistress Mary E. Rusiecki, past president of the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women's Clubs, Inc., who will have the honor of introducing the head table, officers, past presidents, and guests. The invocation will be given by Reverend Stefan J. Niemczyk. Greetings and best wishes will be given by Patricia C. Donovan, Board of Selectmen, Town of Palmer; Richard E. Neal, Second Congressional District Representative in U.S. Congress; Stephen M. Brewer, our State Senator,

Worcester, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire District; Reed V. Hillman, Representative in General Court, First Hampden District; Pauline Dziembowski, President of the Massachusetts Federation of Polish Women's Clubs, Inc., and Christine Wurszt, Vice-president of District V, MFPWC. Principal Address will be by our member Suzanne Strempek-Shea, Author—Topic Our Counterpart 75 Years Ago. The St. Cecelia Choir under the direction of Michael Rheault, Organist and director of Music, at Saints Peter and Paul Church, will entertain us with their music. One of the songs they will sing is Polish Pride—Pope John Paul II (composed by Fred Brozek/music by Stephen Lebida). Barbara Marcinkiewicz will sing the American National Anthem and the Polish National Anthem to start our program and at the close of the program she will lead the audience in singing God Bless America and Boze Cos Polske. Reverend Mr. Edward Tenczar will give the benediction.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX REFORM

HON. J.D. HAYWORTH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will reform the alternative minimum tax (AMT) and mitigate its devastating impact on America's industries. My bill, which would help all types of businesses that are locked in the AMT, has attracted the support of firms in the mining, steel, oil and gas, paper, coal, building, and printing industries, among others.

The corporate AMT was conceived as a way of ensuring that companies with economic income also paid some income tax. Unfortunately, the AMT has a perverse effect on companies that make large capital investments in plants and equipment but suffer from low prices for their output. Frequently, these businesses make commodity products that have small profit margins and are subject to intense international competition. Start-up businesses and rapidly growing companies whose profit margins may be slim in relation to their investment are also affected by the AMT. Extractive industries are another example of those locked into the AMT. And companies in a loss position must routinely borrow money to pay their AMT, even though they have no economic income.

Once in the AMT, a corporation often has problems getting back into the "regular tax" and then using up the AMT credits accumulated during its time in the AMT. My legislation aims to end this vicious cycle by allowing companies that have AMT credits that are more than three years old to use their AMT credits to offset up to 50 percent of their tentative minimum tax. For firms that are currently of of the AMT but carry AMT credit balances, the bill would increase the amount of credits they are able to use currently. Finally, for companies in an AMT loss position in the current and two prior years, the bill would permit a 10-year AMT loss carryback.

As Congress moves forward on tax relief legislation, it is imperative that we keep in

mind the fiscal problems of our nation's basic industries. AMT relief is critical for long-term AMT taxpayers, and I urge my colleagues to join in this important and timely effort.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BINATIONAL GREAT LAKES-SEAWAY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, the Binational Great Lakes-Seaway Enhancement Act of 1999, to improve the competitiveness of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system and restore its vitality.

This coming Sunday will mark the 40th anniversary of the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system is a vital transportation corridor for the United States. The Seaway connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean and makes it possible to ship manufactured products from our industrial Midwest and grains from the Upper Plains directly to overseas markets. Benefits of efficient operations of this transportation route are not limited to the Great Lakes region but extend throughout the United States. Congress recognized the broader impacts and, accordingly, designated the Great Lakes as America's fourth sea coast in 1970.

The Great Lakes region, and international markets, recognized the system's potential, as evidenced by the sharp rise in vessel and cargo traffic through the Seaway immediately after its opening in 1959. Unfortunately, that potential was never fulfilled. The upward trend in cargo traffic peaked around 1977–79. It then went into a long decline precipitated in part by a nationwide economic recession that hit the manufacturing sector particularly hard, and prolonged in part because of capacity constraints imposed by the Seaway.

Locks on the Seaway and the Great Lakes were built as long ago as 1895. New locks constructed for the Seaway between the mid- and late-1950s, as authorized by Congress in 1954, were built to the same size as those completed in 1932. Locks and connecting channels were limited to 27 feet of draft. Because vessel size had grown over time, Seaway facilities were too small on its opening day to serve the commercial fleet then in existence. Today, they are capable of accommodating no more than 30% of the world's commercial fleet. An undersized Seaway that denies large, specialized, and efficient vessels access to the system will prevent U.S. products, especially those from the Great Lakes region, from competing effectively in the global economy.

In addition to declining traffic, inadequate investment in Seaway infrastructure caused the mix of cargoes shipped through the system to be transformed from one that was diverse to one composed largely of low-value commodities. Although the trend of cargo tonnage through the system turned up once again in 1993, current cargo mix consists of essentially

steel coming to the Great Lakes region from abroad, grains going overseas, and iron ore and coal moving from one port to another within the region. Since the last 1980's industrial manufacturing in the United States has recovered through investment in technology and corporate restructuring. Industrial production is flourishing once more in the Great Lakes region; Midwest economies are booming. Yet, only a small volume of high-value finished goods is shipped through the system. The Great Lakes region, therefore, is unable to fully participate in this resurgence of economic strength due to limitations in the Seaway's capacity.

For more than 2 years, I have been working closely with interested parties in the Great Lakes maritime transportation community and the infrastructure investment finance sector in the United States and Canada to develop a proposal to allow the Seaway to reach its full potential, to guarantee the future viability of the Seaway, and to continue the economic development of the Great Lakes region.

The bill I am introducing today, the Binational Great Lakes-Seaway Enhancement Act of 1999, developed in concert with the Honorable Joe Comuzzi, a dear friend of mine and a member of the Canadian Parliament whose district (Riding) is adjacent to mine, would establish the foundation, create the conditions, and provide the resources to permit the system to achieve its full potential. The bill would authorize the creation of a binational authority to operate and maintain the Seaway. It would also provide for the establishment of a non-federal credit facility to offer financial and other assistance to the Seaway and Great Lakes maritime communities for transportation-related capital investments.

Specifically, the legislation would establish a binational governmental St. Lawrence Seaway Corporation by combining the existing, separate U.S. and Canadian agencies that operate each country's Seaway facilities. It would require the Corporation's top management to run the Seaway in a business-like manner. It would transfer Seaway employees and the operating authority of Seaway assets to the Corporation. It would provide labor protection for current U.S. Seaway employees, whether or not they transfer to the Corporation. It would offer incentives for employment and pay based on job performance. It would set forth a process for the Corporation to become financially self-sufficient. At the same time, it would provide the United States with ample oversight authority over the Corporation.

Through merger of the two national Seaway agencies into a single binational authority, we could eliminate duplication and streamline operations. Improved efficiency would reduce government's cost of operating the Seaway. Moreover, a unified Seaway agency would reduce regulatory burden and help cut the sailing time of ships through the system. This latter efficiency improvement would positively affect the bottom line of Seaway users. All of these efficiencies would make the system a more competitive and viable transportation route for international commerce.